

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 GAC-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 EB-11

NIC-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /160 W
----- 074818

R 161525 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7270
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2931

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR, XB

SUBJECT: KOSYGIN CULTIVATES IRAN, URGES ASIAN DETENTE

REF: A. TEHRAN 1683 (NOTAL) B. STATE 44799

1. WE AGREE WITH ASSESSMENT REF A THAT KOSYGIN VISIT TO IRAN
WAS LAST MINUTE DECISION TO CAPITALIZE ON OPPORTUNITY OFFERED
BY ISFAHAN STEEL MILL OPENING TO DISPEL IRANIAN DISTRUST OF
SOVIET MOTIVES IN AREA. AS LATE AS MARCH 13 WHEN SOVIET
PRESS FIRST ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR KOSYGIN VISIT TO TEHRAN,
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IRANIAN EMBOFF HERE WAS STILL UNAWARE OF DATES FOR VISIT AND LEFT US WITH IMPRESSION THAT HE TOO WAS SURPRISED THAT KOSYGIN WOULD LEAD DELEGATION. SIGNING OF AGREEMENT IN TEHRAN TO EXPAND STEEL MILL (AS REPORTED BY PRAVDA MARCH 16), COUPLED WITH KOSYGIN REFERENCES DURING SPEECH TO IMPORTANCE OF " MUTUAL TRUST" BETWEEN IRAN AND USSR UNDERSCORE MAIN PURPOSE FOR VISIT.

2. WE ARE STRUCK BY KOSYGIN' S STRONG EMPHASIS ON JOINT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ASIAN SECURITY, WHICH WE BELIEVE TEHRAN PRESS CORRECTLY CHARACTERIZED AS ANOTHER SOVIET APPEAL FOR " ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY" SYSTEM. INTERESTING ASPECT OF KOSYGIN' S COMMENTS WAS EFFORT TO PORTRAY CLOSE SOVIET- IRANIAN RELATIONS AS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SECURITY OF REGION, ESPECIALLY FOR COUNTRIES BORDERING USSR AND IRAN. IN CONTEXT, THIS SEEMS TO BE DESIGNED TO ALLAY CURRENT PAKISTANI FEARS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT SOVIETS HAVE SAID TO PAKISTAN ABOUT AN ASIAN SECURITY SYSTEM (REFTEL B), WE SUSPECT REPORTED " FORMAL PROPOSAL TO BHUTTO" FOLLOWED VERY MUCH THE LINES OF KOSYGIN' S PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR ALL COUNTRIES OF REGION TO BUILD MUTUAL TRUST AND ADHERE TO DETENTE PRINCIPLES IN RELATIONS. WE PRESUME SAME PITCH HAS BEEN MADE TO SHAH DESPITE LATTER' S KNOWN RESERVATIONS.

DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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BEIRUT
CAIRO
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EUR
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